(a) whether Indo-US treaty on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters came into force with both countries formally signing instruments of ratification on 4th October, 2005;

(b) if so, whether treaty is meant for further cooperation between India and USA to complete criminal activities, drug trafficking and scourge of terrorism;

(c) whether this treaty will enhance ability of two countries to pursue their common objective of law enforcement by putting in place a legal mechanism; and

(d) if so, to what extent this treaty has helped both India and US?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Indo-US treaty on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters came into force with both countries formally signing the Protocol of Exchange of Instruments of Ratification on 3rd October, 2005.

(b) and (c) The Treaty will improve the effectiveness of the Jaw enforcement authorities of both India and USA in investigation, prosecution, prevention and suppression of crime including those relating to terrorism, drug and narcotics trafficking, economic and organized crime through cooperation and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. The Treaty will provide the necessary legal framework for seeking legal assistance in criminal matters between the signatory States.

(d) It is too early to assess, the extent to which the treaty has helped both India and USA.

Joining of terrorist outfits

2336. SHRI RAJ KUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that terrorist group Hizbul Mujahedin has a non-Muslim in its cadre;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have tried to ascertain the circumstances underlying non-Muslim youth joining an anti-national terrorist group;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to motivate non-Muslim youths not to join ultras?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (e) Yes Sir. As per information available with the Government, a few Hindu boys are reported to have joined terrorist groups in Jammu and Kashmir. Monetary considerations and a criminal bend of mind seem to be the main reasons for these youth to join these groups. However, no trend of non-Muslim youth joining these groups is reported. The Security Forces are undertaking pro-active action against terrorists, which is a demotivating factor for such youth from joining these groups.

Funds to deal with Naxal Menace

2337. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are raising funds to deal with all types of problems including Maoist menace;

(b) if so, the details of such funds raised especially for Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether the funds were utilized for any purpose so far; and

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) The Ministry of Home Affairs has the Police Modernization Scheme to strengthen the security apparatus of the States to effectively deal with threats to internal security. Besides, the Ministry also has the SRE Schemes for J&K, North-East and naxalite affected States to supplement the efforts of these States to deal with special problems being faced by them.

(b) The assistance given by the Central Government to Andhra Pradesh in the recent past to tackle naxalite activities includes disbursement of Rs. 8.83 Crores under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme for 2004-05 and 2005-06. Besides, Rs. 79.73 Crores was released under the Police Modernisation (PM) Scheme for 2004-05. Further, **a** sum of Rs.80 Crores has been allocated to the State under the PM scheme for 2005-06. The Government has also provided CPMFs to Andhra Pradesh for anti-naxalite operations. The State Government has been exempted from the payment of cost of such deployment for 3 years *w.e.f.* 1.7.2004.